

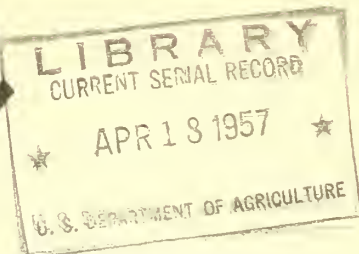
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# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



FOR RELEASE MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1957

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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1/ Includes sun-cured. 2/ Includes one sucker, cigar binder and filler, Perique, and stems, trimmings and scrap.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco for the first 7 months of the 1956-57 fiscal year totaled 341.3 million pounds as compared with exports for the first 7 months of the 1955-56 fiscal year amounting to 424.5 million pounds, a decrease of about 20 percent. Most of the drop occurred in flue-cured tobacco due to substantial decreases in exports to the United Kingdom, the Philippine Republic, and the Benelux countries.

Exports of tobacco products in January 1957, valued at \$4.8 million, were about 2 percent below those for the corresponding month last year. Exports of smoking tobacco in bulk 246,000 pounds in January 1957, showed a large drop, from 754,000 pounds in January 1956.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: U. S. exports, January 1956 and 1957, with percent change

Class of Products	January 1956	January 1957	Percent Change
Cigarettes			
(million pieces).....	1,146	1,171	/ 2.2
Smoking tobacco in			
bulk (1,000 lbs.).....	754	246	- 67.4
Declared value <u>1</u> /			
(million dollars).....	4.9	4.8	2.0

1/ Includes value of other tobacco manufactures not separately shown in Bureau of the Census figures beginning January 1956.

#### TANGANYIKA SHIFTS TO PRODUCTION OF QUALITY FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

Flue-cured production in Tanganyika during the past 2 years averaged 3.2 million pounds. Iringa is the principal producing area, with smaller quantities grown in the Songea, Ukambo, and Tundura areas.

Most of the flue-cured produced in the Iringa area is Amarello or Ehlers varieties - high yielding with undesirable smoking characteristics. The Ehlers variety is a cross between Amarello and an air-cured type. During August 1956 the Tobacco Union in Iringa placed the Ehlers variety under a quota system to reduce the accumulated surplus and encourage growers to shift to true flue-cured leaf production, presumably Orinoco. This is a variety with more desirable flavor and aroma, but is lower-yielding. The 1956 flue-cured crop in Iringa amounted to 2.7 million pounds, of which 400 thousand pounds were from flue-cured seed. Current estimates place the 1957 crop of desirable varieties of flue-cured in Iringa at 1.0 million pounds.



## PAKISTAN'S CIGARETTE AND CIGAR OUTPUT RISES

Cigarette output in Pakistan during the first 9 months of 1956, totaling 3.9 billion pieces, was 11.7 percent larger than the January-September 1955 level of 3.5 billion. Production of cigarettes probably approximated 5.4 billion pieces for all of 1956. At that level, total production for 1956 would be about 600 million pieces greater than the 1955 level of 4.8 billion. Production of cigars during January-September 1956 totaled 765 million pieces in contrast to 634 and 565 million produced during the comparable periods of 1954 and 1955 respectively.

## RHODESIAN FEDERATION TOBACCO EXPORTS AT RECORD HIGH

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco from the Rhodesias and Nyasaland during 1956, totaling 165.3 million pounds, were one-third larger than the 1955 level of 124.3 million and about 25 percent above the previous 1954 record of 132.5 million. Flue-cured shipments totaled 139.3 million pounds, 32.7 million greater than the previous year, and accounted for 84 percent of total exports as compared with 82 percent in 1954. Exports of dark fire-cured totaled 22.0 million pounds, compared with 18.9 and 14.1 million, respectively, during 1954 and 1955. Shipments of other types were 21 percent below the 1955 level of 5.1 million pounds but 10 percent above the 1954 figure of 3.6 million.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland,  
exports by country of destination, 1954-56.

Country of Destination	1954	1955	1956 1/
	1,000 pounds		
Commonwealth Countries:			
United Kingdom.....	77,488	67,995	87,943
Australia.....	11,243	11,145	8,536
Union of South Africa.....	1,459	11,238	17,618
Hong Kong.....	636	509	1,358
Other Commonwealth.....	6,804	6,025	5,208
Total Commonwealth .....	97,630	96,912	120,663
Non-Commonwealth Countries:			
Netherlands.....	8,635	6,415	13,190
Western Germany.....	2,416	3,613	3,484
Belgian Congo.....	6,656	3,036	6,949
Belgium.....	1,549	2,176	6,324
Egypt.....	2,886	2,037	714
Denmark.....	4,458	1,638	2,117
Sweden.....	1,955	1,460	1,735
Norway.....	613	886	974
Austria.....	550	783	731
Indonesia.....	-	110	738
Other Foreign.....	5,114	5,229	7,735
Total Non-Commonwealth .....			
Countries .....	34,832	27,383	44,691
Grand Total.....	132,462	124,295	165,354

1/ Preliminary.

Source: Tobacco Bulletin (Supplement to "Tobacco Intelligence"), March 1957.

#### UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOBACCO CROP LARGER

The Union of South Africa, which has imported leaf to supplement domestic production in recent years, expects a greatly increased crop in 1957. Production of flue-cured tobacco dropped sharply when growers shifted from Amarello to the more desirable, but lower-yielding, Orinoco variety. Tobacco production in 1957 is expected to total 43.2 million pounds, 43 percent above the 30.3 million grown in 1956. Increases from 1956 are expected in all types. Flue-cured production is forecast at 19 million pounds, compared with 13 million in 1956. Dark air-cured is up more than 4 million pounds, and light air-cured is expected to total 4.4 million pounds - almost double the 1956 harvest.

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC STRENGTHENS TOBACCO INSTITUTE

The institute for the Protection of Tobacco in the Dominican Republic was reorganized in February 1957, strengthening it considerably. The Institute has been relatively inactive since its formation in 1954, except for setting minimum farm prices for tobacco. Under the revised decree, the Secretary for Industry and Commerce will be named president of the institute, with the Secretary of Agriculture as vice president. Other officers and members will be ranking members of government and the tobacco industry to assure that problems affecting tobacco production and trade will receive top level attention.

#### TAIWAN UPS OUTPUT OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Output of all tobacco products by the Provincial Tobacco and Wine Monopoly Bureau in Taiwan (Formosa) during the first 9 months of 1956 exceeded the comparable period in 1955. Cigarette output, totaling 7.9 billion pieces, was about 3 percent larger than the January-September 1955 level of 7.7 billion. Production of cigars totaled 416 million pieces compared with 209 million. Output of pipe tobacco was also 12.6 percent greater than the 190,000 pounds produced during the first 9 months of 1955.

#### BRAZILIAN TRADE BALANCE IMPROVES

Continued export of coffee to the United States at good prices was the principal factor in bettering Brazil's balance of trade in 1956. Total exports for calendar 1956 were equivalent to \$1,472 million, and imports were \$1,235 million. This left an export balance of \$237 million, considerably above the comparable figure of \$116 million in 1955.



**WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES:** Wholesale prices at specified markets,  
with comparisons  
(U. S. cents per pound)

Country, market, and description	Butter				Cheese			
	Quotations				Quotations			
	1957	Year:	Month:	Cur-	1957	Year:	Month:	Cur-
		earlier	earlier	rent		earlier	earlier	rent
United Kingdom (London)								
New Zealand, finest	Feb. 28	44.5	32.5	33.5				
Australian choicest	Feb. 28	44.1	32.2	33.2				
New Zealand, finest white					Feb. 28	34.2	30.2	29.8
Australian choicest white					Feb. 28	33.5	28.2	27.2
Australia (Sydney)								
Choicest butter	Mar. 1	45.3	46.7	46.7	Mar. 1	27.5	28.2	28.2
Choicest cheddar								
Irish Republic (Dublin)								
Creamery butter	Mar. 1	48.6	48.6	48.9	Mar. 1	30.6	30.6	30.8
Cheese								
Denmark (Copenhagen)	Feb. 28	48.9	46.0	46.0				
France (Paris)								
Charentes creamery	Mar. 2	98.7	92.2	90.9				
Germany (Kempton)								
Markenbutter	Feb. 27	68.0	68.0	68.6				
United States								
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	Mar. 1	58.1	60.5	60.5				
Cheddar (Wisconsin)					Mar. 1	33.1	35.0	33.8
Netherlands (Leeuwarden)								
Creamery butter	Feb. 28	56.4	51.8	52.8				
Full cream Gouda					Feb. 22	26.0	29.2	26.4
Edam, 40 percent					Feb. 22	23.6	26.7	24.9
Belgium (Hasselt)	Feb. 28	82.2	86.7	83.8				
Canada (Montreal)								
1st grade creamery	Feb. 23	58.4	60.6	60.8				
Ontario white					Feb. 23	30.5	35.3	35.6

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, the Commonwealth Economic Committee, and the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

#### ARGENTINA FREES SUNFLOWER SEED AND PEANUTS FOR DOMESTIC TRADING

The Government of Argentina, in a decree of March 21, 1957, freed sunflower seed and peanuts for domestic trading. The only proviso is that prices shall not fall below officially established floor levels. To enforce this, the government authorizes the National Grains Board to buy up any quantities offered when prices tend to fall below this par.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry reserves the right to fix export quotas when circumstances so require, in order to ensure an adequately supplied domestic market.

#### JAPANESE BREAD PRODUCTION DECLINES DURING 1956

Bread production in Japan during calendar 1956 has been estimated by the Food Agency of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry at only 760,800 metric tons in terms of wheat flour compared with 794,800 tons in 1955. The decline, which is attributed to increased consumption of rice as a result of two years of bumper rice crops, is a development of considerable concern to Japanese bakers and retail establishments handling baked goods. The Japanese Federation of Bakers Cooperative Association and the Federation of Housewives Organization are planning a National Bread Festival during April and will use the slogan "Eat Bread at Least Once a Day." Japanese bread production had more than tripled from 1949 to 1955. The output in the former year was 262,100 tons.

#### U. K. MILK PRODUCTION INCREASING

Increased milk production in Great Britain is presenting marketing problems, according to the March 1957, issue of The Milk Producer, the journal of the Milk Marketing Board. The publication comments: "Producers in the last few months have naturally been concerned with the problems of the marketing of the increased milk supplies which have become available. There has been a great deal of speculation on whether the upsurge of deliveries was temporary or permanent. And many estimates have been made of the effect of favourable climatic conditions on the output of the dairy cow. It is clear, however, that climate was not the only contributory cause. The number of cows is increasing and, of course, the management of them on farms has continued to improve, with a consequent rise in yields. It is safer to assume that an upward trend of supplies is with us, perhaps for the next few years, and to face the problems of marketing in this knowledge."

#### NEW ZEALAND BUTTER PRICES ON LONDON MARKET DECLINE AFTER SHARP RECOVERY

New Zealand butter on the London market recovered from the low price of 31.2 cents per pound on February 21, 1957, to 32.8-33.5 cents per pound during the first week of March. This price could not be maintained, however, and spot sales ranged from 32.5 to 31.2 cents per pound during the week of March 21. This level was close to the previous low price reached in February.

Due to excessive stocks in the United Kingdom, the offering of 1,500 metric tons of Dutch butter at a minimum price of 27.27 cents per pound, f.o.b. the Netherlands, and surplus supplies in several smaller exporting countries, prices began to fall during the latter part of January and continued to decline through February. During this period, buyers depleted their own stocks, anticipating still lower prices. However, when the price of New Zealand butter reached 31.2 cents per pound and only a small portion of the Dutch butter reached the British market, traders began to stock up again. Several buyers bought up to 3 weeks' supply. This resulted in less activity in the following weeks, as traders no longer required immediate supplies.

Consumption rose with the lower prices, and the weekly sales of New Zealand butter are now estimated at 7,500 tons, compared with 6,800 tons earlier. However, to maintain this level of consumption some of the expected price increases may be delayed.

#### ARGENTINA EXPORTING MORE BUTTER

Argentina's exports of butter in 1956, at 32.4 million pounds, considerably exceeded 1955 exports of 23.8 million pounds. The United Kingdom took the bulk of the 1956 increase, 18.8 million pounds, compared with 14.0 million pounds in 1955. Argentina's butter exports to France, French North Africa, Peru, and Italy were also heavier in 1956.

Cheese exports in 1956 increased as well, amounting to 8.1 million pounds, compared with 7.3 million pounds in 1955. As in previous years, the United States and Venezuela were the principal markets for Argentine cheese.

Casein exports declined from 87.5 million pounds in 1955 to 72.4 million pounds in 1956, mainly because of a reduction in sales to the United States and to such important markets as the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, and Finland. There were, however, heavier exports to some European countries, to several Latin American countries, and to Japan.



## FRENCH BUTTER IMPORTS UP IN 1956

France was a net exporter of butter in 1954 and 1955, but in 1956 the position was reversed and French imports exceeded exports. Imports amounted to 37.8 million pounds in 1956, compared with 15.8 million pounds in the preceding year. Denmark accounted for 8.8 million pounds, the Netherlands, 8.7 million pounds, Sweden, 5.2 million pounds, the United States, 4.3 million pounds, Argentina for 3.7 million pounds, and Finland, Australia, and New Zealand for the balance. French butter exports dropped from 26.3 million pounds in 1955 to 10.4 million pounds in 1956. Algeria, Italy, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom were the principal markets, taking 2.5 million pounds, 1.8 million pounds, 1.4 million pounds, and 1.3 million pounds, respectively.

France's imports of cheese rose from 20.6 million pounds in 1955 to 27.5 million pounds in 1956. More than half was the Emmenthal type, most of which came from Switzerland. Cheese exports in 1956 increased only slightly over 1955, totaling 44.6 million pounds. The United States continued to be the most important foreign market for Roquefort cheese, taking about half of the 3.7 million pounds of this type exported during the year. The other important outlet for French cheese is Algeria, which takes more than half of France's total cheese exports.

Imports of canned milk in 1956 were 1.6 million pounds, compared with 2.2 million pounds in 1955, almost all of which came from the Netherlands. Exports were 28.6 million pounds, about 22.0 million pounds of which were condensed milk. Algeria was the principal market, shipments to that country amounting to 3.5 million pounds of evaporated milk and 10.0 million pounds of condensed milk. Other important markets were Viet Nam, French West Africa, Tunisia, and Madagascar.

French imports of dried milk totaled 13.1 million pounds in 1956 as against 5.8 million pounds in 1955. During 1956, Switzerland was the heaviest supplier with 5.3 million pounds, followed by the United States with 4.7 million pounds. Exports dropped from 4.4 million pounds in 1955 to 3.5 million pounds in 1956. France's major outlet for dried milk was Algeria, which took 1.5 million pounds. Smaller quantities went to Tunisia, French West Africa, and other overseas territories.

France encourages dairy exports although it is forced to import some dairy products in times of low production. Although French prices are high, imports are only permitted to the extent necessary to keep prices from going even higher.

#### SURINAM'S NEW TARIFF ALTERS DAIRY PRODUCT IMPORT DUTIES

Surinam's new tariff schedule, effective January 14, 1957, contains a more detailed listing of dairy products than hitherto and changes all duties to an ad valorem basis. Butter and ghee formerly carried a specific duty of about 3.8 cents per pound. Under the new tariff, the rate for butter is 30 percent, ad valorem, and that for ghee is 20 percent, ad valorem.

All cheeses formerly had a specific duty of 2.4 cents per pound. The new tariff classifies cheeses into two groups. The first group includes dessert cheeses (those with an original packing of sheet metal or similar material, each package weighing less than 450 grams); blue-green veined cheeses; and cheeses mixed with meat, vegetables, or herbs (except culim-seed and cloves). This group carries a 40 percent, ad valorem duty. The second group consists of cheeses which cannot be classified in the first category. These have a 5-percent, ad valorem duty.

Processed milks, formerly classed in a "basket" category, are now shown separately. The duties on condensed milks are: without sugar, 20 percent, ad valorem; with sugar, 25 percent, ad valorem; and condensed cream, 40 percent, ad valorem. The duty on dried milk is 20 percent, ad valorem, while dried cream carries a 40-percent, ad valorem duty.

#### QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY REPORTED IN MILDURA

An outbreak of the Queensland fruit fly (*Dacus Tryoni*) in the Mildura part of Victoria, Australia, was reported by the Victorian Department of Agriculture during the week of March 11. The Mildura area, which produces a substantial quantity of oranges as well as dried fruit, is a major source of exports to New Zealand.

New Zealand already prohibits fruit from certain areas of Australia because of the Queensland fruit fly. If Mildura area citrus is embargoed it seems unlikely that Australia will be able to supply the normal market requirements for New Zealand.

#### WEST GERMANY TO IMPORT CANNED ASPARAGUS

The West German Government announced on March 19 that importers may apply for licenses to import canned asparagus this year. Only center cuts are included. The tender was issued early in order that American canners may obtain contracts to meet the special requirements. The amount of money allocated for asparagus purchases has not been announced, but it is expected to be about the same as it was for 1955 and 1956.



## NEW ZEALAND EXPORTS CHILLED BEEF TO JAPAN

New Zealand recently exported a small quantity of chilled boneless beef to Japan. Although no regular trade with Japan exists at present, New Zealand hopes that it can be developed. Opportunities for selling lower grades of chilled beef in Japan are believed to be good. During the 1955-56 season, 203,800 pounds of meat were exported from New Zealand to Japan.

U. S. IMPORTS OF MEAT  
EXTRACT INCREASE IN 1956

United States' imports of meat extract increased sharply in 1956. The 3.2 million pounds imported were 1.5 million more than 1955 imports and were the largest since 1952.

Most of the domestic supply of meat extract is imported from Argentina, Uruguay, Australia, Brazil, and the United Kingdom. In recent years imports from Australia have been large. Exports are small compared with imports.

Meat extracts is obtained by concentrating the residue obtained from the cooking of meats. Most of the supply comes from meat canning operations when meat products are cooked before canning. It is used in the manufacture of gravies, bouillion cubes, and canned soups and as a flavoring agent in other canned and processed products.

## MEAT EXTRACT: U.S. imports and exports, 1952-56

Country	: 1952	: 1953	: 1954	: 1955	: 1956
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: <u>pounds</u>	: <u>pounds</u>	: <u>pounds</u>	: <u>pounds</u>	: <u>pounds</u>
			<u>Imports</u>		
Argentina.....	2,677	2,300	489	881	2,520
Australia.....	59	357	520	495	186
Uruguay.....	574	184	314	114	266
Brazil.....	103	126	11	140	73
United Kingdom.....	10	21	32	30	32
Other countries.....	44	84	119	64	153
Total.....	3,467	3,072	1,485	1,724	3,230
			<u>Exports</u> 1/		
Total.....	68	111	168	246	320

1/ Includes bouillion cubes. Compiled from official records of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

#### LARD AND TALLOW SITUATION IN EGYPT

Egypt's imports of inedible tallow in 1956 totaled 49.4 million pounds, about 250,000 pounds less than 1955 receipts. Approximately 90 percent of this total came from the United States, with minor quantities coming largely from Australia, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

Imports of edible tallow increased from 1.3 million pounds in 1955 to 5.3 million pounds in 1956. This increase in imports was necessitated by increased consumer demand and a need to supplement stocks of vegetable oils, which were at a very low level early last year.

The United States, which was the sole exporter of edible tallow to Egypt in 1955, accounted for only about 15 percent of this trade in 1956. New Zealand had by far the largest share of the market, with shipments totaling 1.2 million pounds. Other suppliers of edible tallow to Egypt were Australia, West Germany, and the Netherlands.

Egypt produces only small quantities of rendered animal fats since total slaughter is not large and the animals generally carry very little fat. Official data as to actual fat production is not available. However, unofficial estimates are that approximately 44 million pounds of rendered animal fat were produced in 1956, with lard accounting for about 520,000 pounds of this total. No lard was imported.

#### DENMARK SELLING BEEF TO U.S.S.R.

Contracts have been concluded between the Danish export organizations and the Soviet government for the exportation of over 8 million pounds of beef to the U.S.S.R. this year. The meat is to be shipped before April 10.

Danish sources indicate that the final destination of the meat is East Germany, where there has been a chronic shortage of beef and the government has been forced to initiate action to increase production (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 25, 1957).

Exports of Danish beef and cattle fell sharply during the last half of 1956. Danish exporters have expressed considerable concern over this development and have intensified their efforts to find new outlets. Although the price received from the U.S.S.R. for the 1957 Danish meat shipment was not considered good, the transaction is regarded in Danish circles as an important step towards trade diversification (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 11, 1956).

## FRENCH LARD PRODUCTION, EXPORTS RISE IN 1956

Total lard production in France increased from 144 million pounds in 1955 to 165 million pounds in 1956. The increase reflects a rise in hog slaughter resulting from the government's policy supporting hog prices at fairly high levels.

French exports of lard in 1956 totaled 43.0 million pounds, about 50 percent above the level of 1955. West Germany and Italy were the most important markets for French lard, taking '50 and 25 percent respectively.

France continued to encourage the export of lard last year through such usual export aids as "technical exchanges of products", as well as providing subsidy payments to some exporters.

## U.S. TALLOW AND GREASE EXPORTS FOR 1956 INCREASE

Exports of inedible tallow and grease from the United States during 1956 reached 1.5 billion pounds, about 15 percent more than in 1955. All areas showed fairly large gains except South America, which was down about 17 percent, due principally to a substantial drop in exports to Colombia largely the result of trade restrictions.

Exports from the United States to nearly all North American markets were up, with Canada, Cuba, and Mexico increasing their imports substantially.

Tallow trade with Japan, which is by far the United States' most important customer in Asia, increased about 4 percent. The two principal United States markets in Africa, Egypt and the Union of South Africa, also showed fairly large gains.

The European market, which took about 60 percent of tallow exports from the United States last year, increased purchases by nearly 20 percent. This was due primarily to the liberal policy of the Italian government in allocating dollars for the purchase of tallow and grease.

Increased foreign use of inedible tallow in soap manufacturing as well as the high quality and relatively low price of United States tallow and grease, were the principal factors contributing to the record exports.

INEDIBLE TALLOW AND GREASES:\*/U.S. exports, by country of destination,  
average 1935-39, annual 1954-56

Continent and Country	Average 1935-39	1954	1955	1956 1/
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
North America:				
British West Indies...	6	4,340	4,141	2,561
Canada.....	4,352	13,533	19,755	25,651
Cuba.....	1,076	31,927	28,924	38,927
Dominican Republic...	264	3,327	3,029	3,410
El Salvador.....	2/	5,349	5,431	3,887
Guatemala.....	196	4,354	3,522	5,075
Mexico.....	266	46,291	52,405	57,961
Other.....	354	1,845	3,351	3,932
Total.....	6,514	110,966	120,608	141,404
South America:				
Chile.....	6	4,890	6,957	4,848
Colombia.....	82	16,060	19,621	8,485
Ecuador.....	2	8,274	7,628	9,571
Peru.....	38	9,860	9,521	10,696
Other.....	60	8,346	6,125	7,952
Total.....	188	47,430	49,852	41,552
Europe:				
Austria.....	3/	3,499	5,317	7,241
Belgium-Luxembourg...	500	46,562	68,863	71,582
France.....	70	11,709	16,725	3,849
Germany, Western 4/...	3/98	117,519	109,629	138,857
Ireland.....	2	5,845	8,982	5,925
Italy.....	308	159,081	190,569	272,284
Netherlands.....	1,364	211,926	261,935	236,646
Norway.....	98	4,517	3,276	2,655
Switzerland.....	112	24,911	29,152	29,168
United Kingdom.....	514	9,540	6,347	18,330
Yugoslavia.....	2	21,456	23,944	24,117
Other.....	230	17,587	18,109	70,733
Total.....	3,298	634,152	742,848	881,387
Asia:				
Japan.....	102	192,615	203,094	210,806
Korea.....	-	13,269	16,154	17,809
Philippines, Rep. of.	50	11,979	12,074	13,649
Taiwan (Formosa).....	-	21,855	23,609	26,873
Other.....	58	14,162	19,612	20,968
Total.....	210	253,880	274,543	290,105
Africa:				
Egypt.....	4	46,828	36,823	49,427
Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland	-	8,773	6,665	5,956
Union of South Africa	14	57,004	56,562	68,424
Other.....	-	3,073	5,039	8,231
Total.....	18	115,678	105,089	132,038
Australia & Oceania....	96	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL.....	10,324	1,162,106	1,293,840	5/ 1,487,872

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than .5 ton. 3/ Austria included with Germany.  
4/ Prior to January 1952, reported as Germany. 5/ Includes 1,386 million  
pounds, the final destination of which has not yet been designated. \*/ Includes  
inedible tallow, animal greases, fats and animal oils, nec.



AUSTRALIAN WOOL  
PRICES DECLINE

Wool prices during the week ending March 15 ranged from 1 to 3 per cent lower at auctions in Brisbane, Adelaide, and Albury. Principal buyers were Japan, Continental Europe and the United Kingdom.

The decline in values reflects a tendency to ease back on prices from the high levels attained in February. The trade is still optimistic, as prices are at a highly profitable level for growers. Japan is reported to have authorized imports of 1.3 million bales during the financial year beginning April 1.

WOOL, RAW: Average costs, clean basis, Australian auction floors, by quality classification, weeks ended March 16, 1956, March 8, 1957, and March 15, 1957

Type and Grade	Week Ended			
	Year ago 3-16-56	3-8-57	3-15-57	
	U.S. dollars per pound			
<u>Combing Wools</u>				
70's Good.....	1.31	1.71	1.67	
Average.....	1.23	1.63	1.61	
64's Good.....	1.13	1.55	1.52	
Average.....	1.11	1.50	1.47	
60's Good.....	1.01	1.41	1.38	
Average.....	.99	1.37	1.34	
58's Good.....	.91	1.29	1.28	
Average.....	.88	1.23	1.22	
56's Good.....	.84	1.18	1.17	
Average.....	.83	1.14	1.13	
50's Good.....	.77	1.04	1.01	
Average.....	.77	1.01	.99	
<u>Carding Wools</u>				
Merino.....	.80	.94	.91	
Comeback.....	.75	.86	.84	
Fine Crossbred.....	.70	.80	.80	
Medium Crossbred.....				

Source: Wool Statistical Service Australian Wool Bureau.



NEW ZEALAND WOOL  
PRICES IRREGULAR

Some 32,000 bales of wool were sold on March 11 at the Timaru, New Zealand, sale, according to trade sources. The wool offerings showed considerable discoloration, with only a few good style wools in the lots.

Prices were irregular, as the medium types were fully steady to slightly higher and other types generally declined.

Price comparisons in cents per pound, greasy basis, for selected descriptions at New Zealand auctions are shown below:

Description	Type	Dunedin 10/24/56	Dunedin 3/6/57	Timaru 3/11/57
Merino.....	29 BB 60/64s	72	88	86
Fine Halfbred.....	72 B 58s	70	88	88
Fine Crossbred.....	100 B 50s	62	69	69
Medium Crossbred.....	114 B 46/50s	62	67	67
Strong Crossbred.....	128 B 46/48s	61	66	65

SUDAN RAISES COTTON  
EXPORT TAX

Sudan's Ministry of Finance has announced an increase in the cotton export tax from £2 per kantar (5.82 U. S. cents a pound), effective for the past 5 years, to £3 per kantar (8.72 cents a pound). The new rate will be effective for the 1956-57 crop, now being harvested. Auctions of the new-crop cotton generally begin in March.

Sudan has expanded its cotton acreage and production this year. The third official estimate of the 1956-57 crop is for production of 542,000 bales (500 pounds gross) from an area of 765,000 acres. These figures represent increases of 23 percent in production and 28 percent in acreage over the 1955-56 crop of 441,000 bales from 598,000 acres.

Cotton exports have dropped during the current period, however, amounting to 225,000 bales in August-January 1956-57, or 18 percent less than exports of 274,000 bales in the comparable months a year ago. Principal destinations have been the United Kingdom, India, Italy, West Germany, and France. Quantities exported in August-January 1956-57, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses included: United Kingdom 117,000 bales (103,000); India 29,000 (51,000); Italy 20,000 (26,000); West Germany 19,000 (34,000); and France 15,000 (16,000). Exports of Sudanese cotton to the United States in the current period were only 147 bales, compared with 8,500 bales in August-January 1955-56.

## FRANCE INCREASES IMPORTS OF U. S. COTTON

France's imports of United States cotton amounted to 193,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during the first 6 months, August-January, of the 1956-57 season, or nearly 3 times the imports of 68,000 bales in August-January 1955-56. Imports from all sources in the first half of the 1956-57 season were 692,000 bales. This was 24 percent above the 556,000 bales imported a year earlier, but at approximately the same level as the 690,000 bales imported in the first half of the 1954-55 season.

The United States share of France's cotton imports in the current period amounted to 28 percent as compared with only 12 percent a year ago, and 36 percent in August-January 1954-55. France's imports of United States cotton depend to a large extent on the foreign exchange position, and the government's allocations of dollars for cotton imports. A large portion of the United States cotton imported in recent years has been financed under provisions of Section 402 of the Mutual Security Act, with payment in local currencies; the balance has been by dollar allocations. Cotton imports from nondollar areas are financed in soft currencies, or under the bilateral trade agreements which France has with some 50 countries.

Imports of other growths were on the whole at about the same level as a year ago, but with significant shifts in the countries of origin. Imports from Mexico, Greece, and the Belgian Congo were sharply increased; those from Egypt, Syria, the Sudan, Pakistan, India, and Turkey were reduced. Imports from Mexico increased under a bilateral trade agreement; those from Greece and the Belgian Congo increased as a result of liberalization between members of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC). Decreased imports from Egypt, Syria, and the Sudan were attributed to difficulties resulting from the Suez crisis. Pakistani and Indian cotton was not available in usual quantities, and imports of Turkish cotton were reduced because of high prices.

Quantities imported from major sources during August-January 1956-57, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: United States 193,000 bales (68,000); French Colonial areas 110,000 (113,000); Greece 81,000 (28,000); Mexico 60,000 (15,000); Syria 53,000 (109,000); Belgian Congo 34,000 (2,000); Iran 26,000 (23,000); Brazil 23,000 (7,000); Peru 23,000 (19,000); Egypt 22,000 (65,000); U.S.S.R. 20,000 (18,000); Pakistan 20,000 (32,000); Sudan 11,000 (20,000); Turkey 8,000 (25,000).

Consumption of cotton by France during August-January 1956-57 was estimated at 658,000 bales, an increase of 11 percent over the 592,000 bales consumed in the same months of 1955-56. Consumption of United States cotton accounted for 31 percent of the total in the current period as compared with only 12 percent a year ago, and 37 percent during August-January 1954-55. The upward trend in total cotton consumption is attributed to increasing domestic consumption of textiles since textile exports have continued to decline.

The number of cotton spindles active in France on December 31, 1956, was reported at 5,519,000 as compared with 5,547,000 a year earlier. The number of spindle hours of operation was 2 percent higher in December 1956 than in December 1955, however, as a result of the increasing percentage of continuous-type spindles. By December 31 1956, about 97 percent of the active spindles were of the continuous type, and only 3 percent were rewind spindles. The number of looms in operation December 31 was 104,000, the same as a year earlier, and 57 percent of these were automatic. The number of personnel employed in the spinning and weaving industry was only slightly below that of a year ago, although output had been increased as a result of the shift to more automatic equipment.

Cotton stocks in France on August 1, 1956, were estimated at 355,000 bales, down 9 percent from stocks of 390,000 bales held a year earlier. Midseason stocks on January 31, 1957, were estimated at 389,000 bales.

Prices of most raw cottons in France in 1956 reached a low point in September and have tended to rise slowly since then. Prices of Turkish cotton were the exception to the general trend, being far above the rest of the market until November, but they have been reduced through Turkish Government export subsidies since that time. Prices of United States cotton are now strictly competitive and in fact are lower for comparable grade and staple length than any other cotton on the French market. United States Strict Middling 1 inch on March 11 was quoted at Le Havre at 267 francs per kilo, equivalent to 34.6 cents per pound while most other cottons having approximately the same grade and staple length were quoted at 35.5 to 39.0 cents per pound.

COTTON: Prices of various growths, ex-warehouse, French Port, selected dates, in U. S. cents per pound.

Source and variety	:Equivalent U. S. : :grade and staple 1/:	1956		1957
		July 2	Sept. 17	March 11
United States, SM 1"....	SM 1".....	42.90	31.88	34.60
Mexico, SM 1".....	SM 1".....	36.68	32.79	36.55
Brazil, Type 3/4.....	SM 1".....	39.92	-	36.68
Peru, Tanguis.....	SM 1-1/8".....	44.84	45.36	-
Syria, Texas.....	SM 1-1/16".....	37.97	34.47	36.81
Egypt, Karnak 151.....	2/.....	88.26	81.00	92.53
Egypt, Ashmouni 2.....	SM 1-1/32".....	57.28	50.80	60.13
French Colonies 3/.....	SM 31/32"-1".....	36.68	36.29	39.92
Uganda BP52.....	GM 1-1/8".....	47.30	-	-
Pakistan, Saw.....	SM 1".....	38.88	33.95	38.75
Pakistan, Roller.....	SM 1".....	36.42	31.88	34.86
Turkey, Akala I.....	SM 1-1/16".....	55.86	-	-
Turkey, Adana P.....	SM 31/32".....	53.52	-	-

1/ Quality comparisons in terms of U. S. Standards are the opinions of French trade sources. Such comparisons are usually done independently by cotton firms in various countries, and no individual list is internationally recognized. 2/ Not available. 3/ Average between Allen 1st and Triumph 1st.

Source: Commission for Cotton Purchase Control, Paris.



## U. S. COTTON EXPORTS IN RUNNING BALES

United States cotton exports in January 1957 amounted to 791,000 running bales, bringing the total for the 6 months August-January 1956-57 to 3,790,000 running bales. Comparable data for exports in 500-pound bales were published in Foreign Crops and Markets, March 25. Release of the running-bale figures for January was delayed while new equipment was being put into operation by the Bureau of the Census but an earlier release date is expected in future months.

## EGYPT TO DISCOUNT COTTON EXPORT PRICES TO CERTAIN AREAS

The Government of Egypt has announced temporary price discounts on cotton exports to certain areas, to be effective on sales made between March 26 and April 30, regardless of shipment date. Discount rates for various currencies will be as follows: 20 percent on dollar sales to the United States and Canada; 15 percent on dollar sales to other destinations, or against payment in Deutschemarks; 10 percent under the Italian bilateral clearing agreement; and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  percent against payment in Indian rupees.

## SWITZERLAND'S COTTON IMPORTS AT RECORD LEVEL

Switzerland's cotton imports during August-February 1956-57 were at a record level of 178,000 bales (500 pounds gross), 50 percent higher than imports of 119,000 bales for this period in 1955-56, and 38 percent higher than the 129,000 bales imported in August-February 1954-55. Increased imports of United States cotton accounted for more than the overall increase in total imports. Volume from the United States in the current period was 80,000 bales as compared with only 10,000 a year ago, and 43,000 in August-February 1954-55.

Other principal sources of Switzerland's cotton imports are Mexico, Peru, and Egypt. Quantities imported from principal foreign sources in August-February 1956-57, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 31,000 bales (31,000); Peru 31,000 (20,000); and Egypt 23,000 (39,000).

Cotton consumption during August-February 1956-57 was estimated at 104,000 bales, 4 percent higher than the 100,000 bales consumed in the same months of 1955-56. Consumption of 88,000 bales in August-January 1956-57 was 22 percent United States, 23 percent Mexican, 23 percent Egyptian, and 18 percent Peruvian cotton. Estimated stocks on February 28, 1957, on the basis of the foregoing figures, would be 165,000 bales as compared with 91,000 bales held on August 1, 1956, and 98,000 bales on August 1, 1955.

# VENEZUELA TO IMPORT 26,000 TONS OF SESAME SEED

The Government of Venezuela, recognizing that the 1957 sesame seed crop has not reached the hoped for 22,000 short tons, is licensing oil seed crushers to import 26,455 tons of seed. This is a much greater quantity than the 6,600 tons recommended earlier by the Venezuelan Copra Commission (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 18, 1957).

Requirements for Venezuela are now estimated, by the crushers, at nearly 42,000 tons annually. Crushers have purchased virtually the entire local production, estimated at 14,300 tons.

Production of sesame seed in 1956 was an estimated 22,000 tons.

# INDIA RAPESEED ACREAGE UP SLIGHTLY; SESAME OUTPUT DOWN

The Ministry of Agriculture of India has released the first estimates for the 1956-57 rape-and-mustard seed acreage, and the third estimate for sesame acreage and production.

The first estimate for rape-and-mustard seed acreage for 1956-57 is reported at 2,632,000 acres, 69,000 acres larger than the comparable estimate for 1955-56. The first estimate usually represents about 40 percent of the crop finally reported. This would indicate a total acreage this year of 6,580,000 acres, or an increase of 5 percent from last year. The final official figure for 1955-56 was 6,262,000 acres with a production of 931,840 short tons.

The third estimate for sesame, which usually covers about 95 percent of the total acreage finally reported, is for 4,996,000 acres with production of sesame seed estimated at 467,000 tons. The third estimate for 1955-56 was 5,423,000 acres, and 486,000 tons. Final estimates for last year were 5,738,000 acres and 512,960 tons. Unfavorable weather at planting time is the reason given for the decreased estimates this year.

# NORWEGIAN HERRING OIL PRODUCTION SHARPLY REDUCED

The Norwegian winter herring catch was little more than half that of last year, according to press reports. The official estimate of herring oil produced up to February 14 is 36,400 short tons, compared with 68,300 tons at that time last year. Norwegian hardeners will have to look to the Norwegian whale oil industry, which has 50 to 60,000 tons of Antarctic whale oil, or to Icelandic herring or U. S. menhaden oil, to supply their needs.



NIGERIA'S OILSEED PURCHASES DROP;  
EXPORTS LARGE IN 1956

Nigeria's purchases, largely for export, of peanuts, cottonseed, sesame seed, and soybeans during the 1956-57 season are expected to be one-fourth to one-third less than in the 1955-56 season. Palm oil purchases in 1956 were 5 percent less than in 1955 while kernel purchases increased 10 percent.

VEGETABLE OILSEEDS AND PALM PRODUCTS: Nigerian purchases,  
1955-56 and 1956-57

	: 1955-56	: 1956-57 <u>1/</u>
	:- - - 1,000 short tons - - -	
Peanuts (shelled).....	595	: 405
Palm Kernels.....	<u>2/</u> 472	: <u>3/</u> 521
Palm oil.....	<u>2/</u> 222	: <u>3/</u> 211
Cottonseed.....	61	: 52
Sesame seed.....	21	: 18
Soybeans.....	11	: 18
	:	:
<u>1/</u> Preliminary. <u>2/</u> Largely 1955. <u>3/</u> Largely 1956.		

Peanut purchases from the 1956-57 crop (November 1956-October 1957) are expected to approximate 405,000 short tons of shelled nuts, almost one-third less than the record purchases from the 1955-56 crop. Unfavorable weather at planting time and throughout the growing season was largely responsible for the reduction. Some areas were planted 3 times and there was a great loss of seed. The reduction in the peanut crop is a great economic loss for the Northern Region of Nigeria where most of the crop is produced. All of the 1955-56 crop was exported or moved to railheads before the 1956-57 season opened.

Dry weather has reduced the expected yield of cotton this season with the result that commercial seed output may not exceed 52,000 tons, or 15 percent less than last season's production. Purchases of sesame seed for export are expected to be roughly 15 percent smaller than last season but soybean purchases for export are expected to be up about 60 percent.

OILSEEDS, VEGETABLE OILS, AND OILCAKE AND MEAL: Nigerian  
exports, calendar years 1955 and 1956

Commodity	1955	1956
	<u>1,000 short tons</u>	
<u>Oilbearing materials</u>		
Peanuts (shelled).....	445	502
Palm kernels.....	485	505
Cottonseed.....	58	<u>1/</u> 33
Sesame seed.....	15	25
Soybeans.....	10	11
Copra.....	8	5
Coconuts.....	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
Castor beans.....	1	1
Shea nuts.....	7	4
Other oilseeds.....	1	1
<u>Vegetable oils</u>		
Peanut.....	38	39
Palm		
Edible.....	153	165
Inedible.....	51	42
Other vegetable oils.....	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
<u>Cake and meal</u>		
Peanut.....	43	48
Palm kernel.....	1	1

1/ January-August.

2/ Less than 500 tons.

Compiled from official sources.

As a result of the large peanut and palm kernel production in 1956-57, exports of oilseeds and other oil-bearing materials in 1956 were substantially larger than in 1955. Vegetable oil exports, however, showed only a slight increase. While inedible palm oil exports declined almost one-fifth, exports of edible grade oil increased almost 10 percent, reflecting the increased quantities of Nigerian palm oil that are becoming competitive with other vegetable oils.

# IRAQ LOWERS ESTIMATES FOR 1956 DATE PRODUCTION

Date production in Iraq during 1956 is now estimated as 245,000 short tons, 90,000 tons less than the volume indicated in the November 19, 1956, issue of Foreign Crops and Markets. Production was extremely low in both the Basra and Central areas. According to unofficial statistics, the entire Iraqi date crop for 1956 is only slightly more than half of the 1955 crop. The proportion of marketable dates, however, is above average due to favorable harvest weather and the absence of wind and insect damage.

Hallawi dates, preferred in the American and Canadian markets, are particularly short for 1956. The crop has been estimated at only 19,000 tons, 45 percent of that for the previous season. Hallawi dates comprise one-fifth the production for the Basra area, where the overall date volume--estimated at 90,000 tons--is down one-third from the 1955 total. Central area production in 1956 is estimated at 155,000 tons, about 50 percent below that of the previous season. Zahidis are the principal variety grown in the Central area.

DATES: Iraq, supply and distribution, estimated 1955-56 and forecast  
1956-57  
(Crop season September 1 through August 31)

Item	Estimate 1955-56	Forecast 1956-57
	- - - - - short tons - - - - -	
Beginning stocks.....	70,000	105,000
Production.....	420,000	245,000
Total supply.....	490,000	350,000
Exports.....	284,000	270,000
Domestic Use.....	101,000	80,000
End stocks.....	105,000	-
Total distribution.....	490,000	350,000

The current marketing season has witnessed considerable improvement in the stocks situation. Surplus dates have been processed into date syrup and arak, and for livestock feed are being made to Germany and Japan. All Basra stocks carried over have been sold and the balance of the Central area stocks is expected to be cleared by the end of the current marketing season.

Iraqi dates are enjoying a good market abroad. Licensed exports through February 1, 1957, totaled 146,000 tons; exports for the entire season may approximate 270,000 tons. Exports during the previous crop year amounted to 284,000 short tons. India is the largest importer of Iraqi dates.

Grower prices as established by the monopoly agreement between the Iraq Date Association and the Iraq Date Trading Company for the 1956, 1957, and 1958 crops in the Basra area for dates delivered alongside packing house are:

<u>Variety</u>	<u>U.S. cents per pound</u>
Hallawi	1.7
Hadrawi	1.5
Sayer	1.4
Zahidi	1.2

Because of the short crop, however, an active black market has developed for table-quality dates, with prices of 2.2 to 2.3 cents being paid for Hallawis. In the Central area, the Date Trading Company has permitted responsible merchants to trade in export dates upon payment of a royalty of 0.4 cents per pound to the monopoly.

Fumigation facilities of the Date Association packing plants in Basra and Baghdad were operating throughout the season. Because of the small crop the Date Association did not attempt to pack in the Basra plant. Instead, the facilities were leased to the Date Trading Company, which is packaging a small quantity of dates in an attractive loose pack. The company hopes to introduce the new pack in the European and Canadian markets.

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World Castor Bean Production Approximates 1955 Level. Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO 2-57.

Large 1956 Foreign Raisin Production Being Marketed. Foreign Agriculture Circular FDF 2-57.

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Foreign Agricultural Trade Digest, March 1957.

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